



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

# Site Update

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

Harris County, Texas

February 2017

## This fact sheet will tell you about:

- **Current Status / Recent Activities**
- **Community Engagement**
- **What's Next**
- **For More Information**

## Current Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the State of Texas, is continuing to review, assess and develop responses to an extremely large number of public comments received during the recent public comment period that ended on January 12, 2017, in order to select a comprehensive remedy for the site. This remedy will be contained in a Record of Decision (ROD) in late 2017.

EPA solicited comment on a Proposed Plan for the site in early September, 2016 and established a 60-day public comment period. EPA held a public meeting on October 20, 2016, where comments, questions, and recommendations were recorded. EPA then extended the comment period an additional 45 days. The official public comment period ended January 12, 2017. Extensive comments were received in varying formats, including mail, online, and email, as well as verbal, during the public meeting.

Responses to the proposed plan included over 6,000 individual comments, 48,000 signatures on various petitions, and about 2,800 pages of detailed technical comments.

Comments will be evaluated in terms of nine criteria under Superfund regulations to select a final remedy for the site. These criteria are: 1) overall protection of human health and the environment; 2) compliance with applicable, relevant, and appropriate requirements; 3) long-term effectiveness and permanence; 4) reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment; 5) short-term

effectiveness; 6) implementable; 7) cost effective; 8) state acceptance; and, 9) community acceptance. EPA assesses public comment on the Proposed Plan to gauge community acceptance.

Written responses to all comments will be included in the ROD and made available to interested parties.

After the ROD is signed, EPA will provide potentially responsible parties the opportunity to carry out the design and construction of the remedy.

## Recent Activities

After a storm passed over the area in the middle of January 2017, the Potentially Responsible Parties conducted a visual inspection of the Site on Monday, January 23, 2017. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality participated in this inspection. During that inspection, the tides were extremely low, providing an opportunity for visual inspection of areas that are typically submerged. Seven small areas (6 square feet each or less) of deficient rock and exposed geotextile were found in the eastern cell, as well as several other areas on the western edge of the cap. No waste materials were exposed. Following EPA approval of a repair plan, the Potentially Responsible Parties repaired the areas by placing additional rock there.

A regular quarterly bathymetric/topographic survey of the cap, performed in January 2017, identified an area in the eastern cell that is more than 1 foot lower in elevation than the prior survey. Probing performed last Spring, in March 2016, in this area found sediments deposited over the armor cap. New probing over this area was performed on February 3, 2017, to check the cap thickness and integrity, and additional armor rock will be placed as necessary. The results of this probing inspection are not available for this update, but will be included in a future update.

## Community Engagement

The EPA, in cooperation with site partners and local agencies, will continue to provide information on the status of the site, community concerns, and site repairs and maintenance. EPA will update elected officials and community groups as needed and provide a site status update or fact sheet every 60 days on site developments.

## What's Next

The EPA will keep the public, its partner agencies, and media informed on the status of the completion of the Record of Decision, as well as other site impacting issues that may arise.

## For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, visit our website, [www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwf](http://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwf) or contact the following resources:

### U.S. EPA:

Gary Miller  
Superfund Remedial Project Manager  
214.665.8318 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Donn Walters  
EPA Community Involvement  
214.665.6483 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Superfund Regional Counsel  
214.665.2157 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

## Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:

TCEQ Superfund Project Manager  
Satya Dwivedula  
512.239.3548

TCEQ Superfund Community Relations Liaison  
Crystal Taylor  
512.239.3844

## Texas Department of State Health Services:

Tina Walker  
Tina.Walker@dshs.state.tx.us  
512.776.2932 or 1.800.588.1248 x2932

## Site Repository:

Stratford Branch Library  
509 Stratford Street  
Highlands, Texas 77562

All inquiries from the news media should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

To receive a Spanish translation of this fact sheet, call the EPA at 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free).

Para recibir una traducción en español de esta hoja de datos, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección del Medio Ambiente de los EEUU (la EPA) al número de teléfono 1.800.533.3508 (llamada gratis).



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